

UNCLASSIFIED

TELEGRAM

0998
082021Z FEB 78

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

File 50

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:
ACTION:

GDS
SHUM, AR
MFA CONSTERNATION AT U.S. HUMAN
RIGHTS ATTITUDES
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO:
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMB
DCM
POL-3
POL/R
ECON
USIS
RF
CHRON

██████████ BUENOS AIRES: 998

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0965 (NOTAL)

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

1. WE BELIEVE IT SIGNIFICANT THAT EMBASSY POLITICAL
OFFICER WHO DEALS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS WAS CALLED IN TO
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON FEBRUARY 6 FOR TOUR
D'HORIZON WHICH TURNED INTO A 3-HOUR AND 15-MINUTE
DEBATE ON EFFORTS TAKEN BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT
TO STRAIGHTEN OUT ITS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD AND U.S.
PERCEPTIONS OF CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.
JUAN CARLOS ARLIA, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATION DEPARTMENT,
AND MIGUEL ANGEL ESPECHE GIL, WHO HEADS THE NORTH
AMERICAN DESK, TOGETHER AND ALTERNATELY MADE LONG
PRESENTATIONS CENTERED UPON EFFORTS MADE TO BE

DRAFTED BY:

POL:WHHallmanWFAHarris:eg

DRAFTING DATE

2/8/78

TEL. EXT.

278

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

DCM:MChaplin

CLEARANCES:

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION

50153-101

81F93
50/52

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

Classification
UNCLASSIFIED

RESPONSIVE TO USG HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS, "AS FAST AS WE CAN" AND FACT THAT TO ARGENTINE EYES THESE EFFORTS HAVE NOT BEEN NOTICED NOR APPRECIATED.

2. CITED PARTICULARLY AS EVIDENCE OF EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SCENE HERE WERE: (A) CHRISTMAS AMNESTY LIST, WHICH RELEASED MORE THAN 300 PRISONERS FROM "PEN" STATUS; (B) IMPLEMENTATION OF LAW 21,650 TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS FROM PEN PRISONERS FOR RIGHT OF OPTION TO LEAVE ARGENTINA; (C) COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLICATION OF COMPLETE LIST OF PERSONS DETAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT UNDER THE "PODER EJECUTIVO NACIONAL"; AND (D) PLACING THE TIMERMAN, DEUTSCH AND VOGLER CASES INTO REGULAR LEGAL CHANNELS, AND THUS COMPLYING WITH OUR URGING THAT CASES SHOULD BE GOTTEN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE INTO PROPER ADJUDICATION.

what?
3. ARLIA AND ESPECHE GIL EACH MADE STRONG PERSONAL CASE FOR USG'S taking note of ~~acknowledging~~ THE PROGRESS TAKEN BY GOA. IDEA PRESENTED WAS THAT MFA MUST BE GIVEN SOME RECOGNITION OF ITS EFFORTS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE ITS UPHILL WORK AMONG OTHER ELEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT. ARLIA AND ESPECHE GIL WERE BOTH DISAPPOINTED BY REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR CASTRO DURING TRIP TO THE SOUTH OF ARGENTINA, WHICH AS REPORTED HERE IN THE PRESS CALLED ATTENTION TO ARGENTINA'S BAD HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE OVERSEAS (SEE BUENOS AIRES 493).

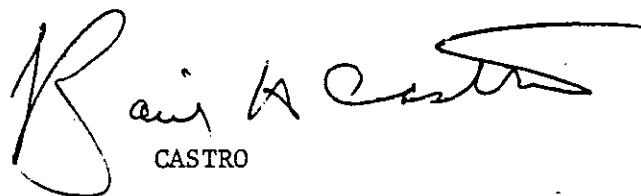
4. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT WHILE IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN LAST MONTHS BY GOA TO REGULARIZE THE STATUS OF PEN PRISONERS DID NOT GO TO HEART OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS EITHER IN ARGENTINA OR IN U.S., THESE WERE IMPORTANT STEPS FORWARD. KEY ISSUES WERE PAST

Classification

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DISAPPEARANCES AND PROCEDURAL CHANGES ELIMINATING "MIDNIGHT OPERATIONS." CONTINUING DISAPPEARANCES NOT ONLY PROVIDED AMMUNITION FOR ATTACKS ON GOA BY ITS ENEMIES, BUT SERIOUSLY UNDERCUT ABILITY AND WILL OF THOSE SEEKING TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS (MEMCON FOLLOWS).



CASTRO

Classification

UNCLASSIFIED